

Application No.: 09/715,981

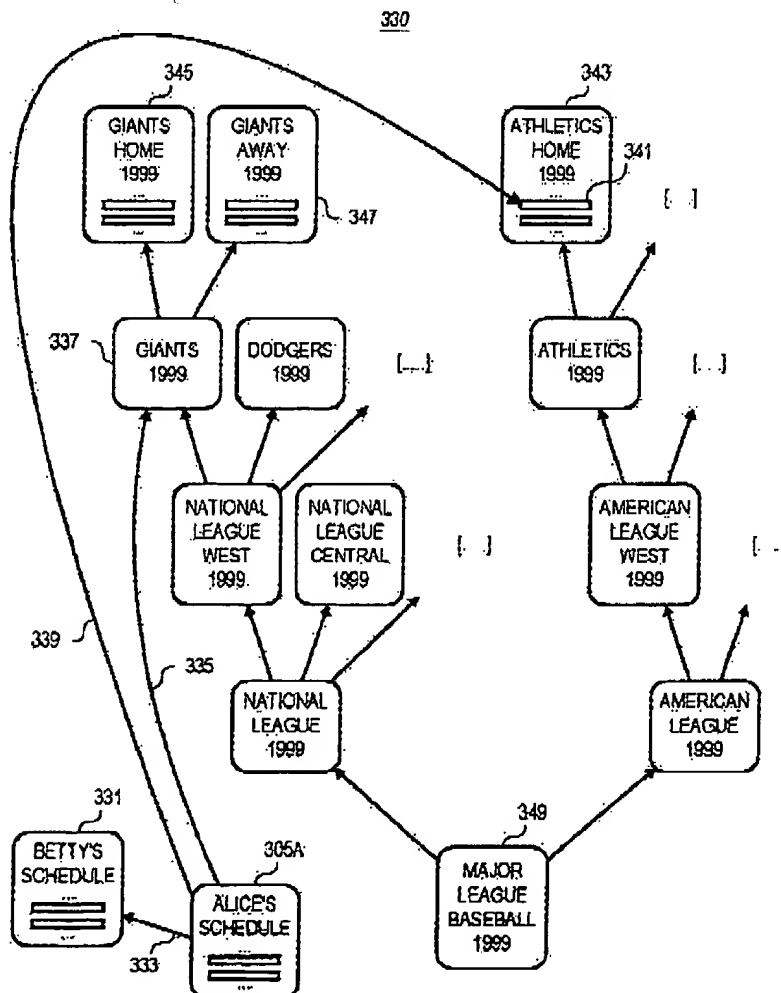
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REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application, claims 30-32 being added with this response. Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination on 13 May 2004, thereby removing the final rejection of this application. Applicant successfully traversed the rejections over Boothby, and appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of those rejections. This response addresses the non-final action of 28 July 2004, which presents new grounds for rejection, with amendments to claims 1 and 23.

Inheritance Depicted in this Application

Preliminarily, discussion of the concept of inheritance, as opposed to ordinary synchronization, may help the Examiner appreciate the differences between Chu, Bodnar and the present claims. Inheritance from public datasets to Alice's personal dataset is depicted in FIG. 3B.



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From page 17 of the application,

The Infomanager 301 maintains and controls a number of datasets including, for example, a parent [public] dataset 303 and a child [personal] dataset 305. The child dataset 305 can inherit information from the parent dataset 303. ... In general, information may flow from the parent dataset 303 into the child dataset 305 via inheritance, but the child dataset 305 needs not alter the parent dataset 303. This generally or largely one-way flow of information, controlled by the Infomanager 301, is shown schematically in FIG. 3A by a uni-directional solid arrow (e.g., "flow arrow") that couples the parent dataset 303 and the child dataset 305.

FIG. 3B depicts inheriting parts of a 1999 Major League Baseball schedule (and Betty's schedule) into Alice's personal schedule. Alice can annotate a particular game entry inherited from the public dataset, but cannot reschedule a Major League baseball game. Not shown in the figure is synchronization of a personal dataset with an alter-ego dataset, which typically is a portable dataset, as on a PDA or phone.

"Inheritance-aware" handling of modifications to inherited items is different than simply mapping between data items among two co-equal datasets, either of which can be altered with synchronized to the other. Inheritance-aware synchronization between a so-called personal dataset and its so-called alter-ego is discussed in the application, section VII, pp. 42 et seq., and effectively contrasted with traditional synchronization. With distinctions among public-to-personal inheritance, inheritance-aware personal-to-alter ego dataset synchronization and traditional dataset synchronization in mind, we address the rejections.

Application No.: 09/715,981**Atty Docket: PUMA 1019-1****New Claims 30-32 Added**

Applicant has added claims 30-32, and takes this opportunity to identify support in the application for terms used in the claims.

"Public" events, event schedules and information sources are a type of parent or ancestor dataset from which data is inherited in discussions throughout the application, including p. 4, line 15 to page 6, line 18, page 12, line 13, page 17, line 29 to page 18 line 3 and page 19, lines 1-21. Public is juxtapositioned with private or personal datasets, which both are non-public datasets. In the example of FIG. 3A-B, daughter Betty's calendar is considered "public" when mother Alice inherits it. Neither the major league's schedule nor the daughter's schedule can be modified by the mother, but both can be annotated.

Inheritance is discussed throughout the application, with emphasis on inheritance-awareness of the child dataset at pages 39-47.

These references are provided to demonstrate support for terms in the new claims, without any intent to import limitations from the specification into the claims.

Application No.: 09/715,981**Atty Docket: PUMA 1019-1****Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(e) as Anticipated by Chu**

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Chu et al. (USP 6,493,720).

Claim 1

Applicant has amended claim 1 as follows:

placing a first pointer in the first dataset, pointing to a first record in the second dataset that contains the inherited first data item; and

when processing data in the first dataset, using the first pointer to locate the inherited first record in the second dataset, and including the inherited first data item from the second dataset in the processing of data in the first dataset;

wherein the user cannot modify the second dataset and the first dataset is a personal dataset in which the user can annotate the inherited first data item.

We do not find that Chu inherits any actual data from datasets. Chu keeps track of metadata, e.g., about the location objects in datasets, but avoids inheriting data. This is apparent in the definition of metadata provided in col. 1, lines 51-55 ("not the actual data").

Moreover, Chu does not meet the wherein limitation.

For these reasons, claim 1 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 14

Claim 14 includes the following limitation:

data that is inherited on a record level from the second dataset that is further inherited on a record level from a third dataset, data that is inherited on a dataset level from the third dataset, and data that is inherited from the second dataset and that is modified locally, ...

This portion of the preamble gives meaning to processing of data inherited from the second and third datasets, as data is inherited from the third dataset via two routes.

Chu does not describe any data inherited from a second dataset that is in turn inherited from a third dataset. Chu also does not describe an ordering to processing of data in the third dataset, depending on how it is inherited into the first dataset. Chu's FIG. 2 illustrates a single level of traditional synchronization between tool datasets 202, 204, 206 and an information catalog system 208. There is no illustration or discussion of multi-level data inheritance. Discussions of object-oriented programming (OOP)

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classes and subclasses relates to data synchronization only as a tool, like a keyboard relates to responding to an office action.

For these reasons, claim 14 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 17

Claim 17 includes the following limitations to a system claim:

a second pointer in the first dataset, the second pointer pointing to a third pointer in a third dataset, the third pointer pointing to a second data item in a fourth dataset to inherit the second data item from the third dataset into the first dataset on a record level, the second data item further being inherited from the fourth dataset into the third dataset on a record level; and

a fourth pointer in the first dataset, the fourth pointer pointing to a fifth dataset to inherit the fifth dataset into the first dataset on a dataset level, ...

The first dataset points-to third dataset points-to fourth dataset sequence presents multi-level data inheritance, which Chu does not describe, for the reasons explained above.

Inheritance of whole datasets, as opposed to record level inheritance, has no analogue in Chu. Chu consistently treats metadata at the record level, with the information catalog system 208 keeping a local copy of all interesting metadata, rather than a pointer to a whole dataset.

For these reasons, claim 17 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 23

Claim 23 includes the following limitations:

performing a first synchronization of at least a portion of the first dataset with at least a portion of a first alter-ego dataset, including sending a copy of the first data item to the first alter-ego dataset for inclusion in the first alter-ego dataset as a first alter-ego copy of the first data item...

Chu does not propagate data or even metadata from the information catalog system to datasets that are not sources. The metadata synchronizer 118 (cols. 7-8) monitors tools A, B and C for changes in data by the tools, but Applicant cannot find any mention of propagating data to an alter-ego dataset.

For these reasons, claim 23 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 2

Claim 2 should be allowable over Chu for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Application No.: 09/715,981**Atty Docket: PUMA 1019-1****Claim 3**

Claim 3 adds to claim 1 the following limitations:

receiving a third user input, the third user input indicating changes to be made to the first data item;

creating a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset; and

applying the user changes to the local copy of the first data item.

An inheritance-aware embodiment can choose to make a local copy of an inherited first data item when the user wants to annotate it (remembering that the user cannot actually change the source copy of the inherited first data item.) The DataGuide metadata repository 600 maintains metadata. There is no indication that a local copy of data will be made when a user wants to annotate it.

For this additional reason, claim 3 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 4

Claim 4 adds to claims 1 and 3 retaining the pointer even after creating a local copy of data to be annotated. There is no suggestion of this method in Chu.

For this additional reason, claim 4 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 5

Claim 5 adds to claims 1 and 3 details of processing a local copy, which are not found in Chu. For this additional reason, claim 5 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 6

Claim 6 adds to claim 1 the following limitation:

receiving a fourth user input, the fourth user input selecting a third dataset and indicating that the entire third dataset is to be inherited into the first dataset;

placing a second pointer in the first dataset, pointing to the third dataset; and

when processing data in the first dataset, using the second pointer to locate the third dataset ...

Again, inheritance of whole datasets, as opposed to record level inheritance, has no analogue in Chu. Chu consistently treats metadata at the record level, with the information catalog system 208 keeping a local copy of all interesting metadata, rather than a pointer to a whole dataset.

For this additional reason, claim 6 should be allowable over Chu.

Application No.: 09/715,981**Atty Docket: PUMA 1019-1****Claim 7**

Claim 7 adds to claim 1 a multi-level inheritance limitation, similar to claim 14. It should be allowable over Chu for the additional reasons that claim 14 should be allowable.

Claim 8

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and adds to claim 1 the combination of whole dataset and multi-level inheritance. For the additional reasons given in discussion of claim 17, claim 8 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 9

Claim 9 adds to claim 1 propagation of a copy of an inherited data item into an alter ego dataset. Chu does not propagate data or even metadata from the information catalog system to datasets that are not sources (see *Claim 23, above*). The metadata synchronizer 118 (cols. 7-8) monitors tools A, B and C for changes in data by the tools, but Applicant cannot find any mention of propagating data to an alter-ego dataset. For this additional reason, claim 9 should be allowable over Chu.

Claims 10 and 11

Claims 10 and 11 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 9, from which they depend.

Claim 12

Claim 12 adds to claim 10 (which depends from 1 and 9) the following limitations:

receiving a seventh user input, the seventh user input indicating a change to be made to the first data item;

applying the user change to the local copy of the first data item;

receiving an update to the first data item from the alter-ego dataset during the synchronization;

resolving conflicts between the update to the first data item from the alter-ego dataset and the user change received in the seventh user input; and

entering the update from the alter-ego dataset into the local copy of the first data item and propagating the user change from the seventh user input to the alter-ego dataset as appropriate, based on the conflict resolution.

Chu does not include an alter-ego dataset. Therefore, there is no resolution of conflicts with edits to an alter-ego dataset.

For this additional reason, claim 12 should be allowable over Chu.

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Claim 15

Claim 15 adds to claim 14 the limitation:

wherein the data in the first dataset further includes data that is inherited from the third dataset and that is modified locally, and the step of processing the data in the first dataset that are inherited from the third dataset excludes data for which a local copy has already been processed.

Chu relies primarily on the source datasets 202, 204, 206 and does not indicate any circumstances under which local modification of data in the information catalog 208 would exclude updating from a source.

For this additional reason, claim 15 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 16

Claim 16 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14, from which it depends.

Claim 18

Claim 18 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

wherein the second dataset and the third dataset are the same dataset.

Chu does not include this variation on multi-level inheritance. For this additional reason, claim 18 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 19

Claim 19 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

wherein the second dataset and the fifth dataset are the same dataset

Chu does not include this variation on whole dataset inheritance. For this additional reason, claim 19 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 20

Claim 20 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

if a user of the first dataset attempts to modify the first data item, the system creates a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset and modifies the local copy, instead of the first data item in the second dataset.

This inheritance-aware embodiment makes a local copy of an inherited first data item when the user wants to annotate it (remembering that the user cannot actually change the source copy of the inherited first data item.) In Chu, the DataGuide metadata repository 600 maintains metadata. There is no indication that a local copy of data will be made when a user wants to annotate it.

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For this additional reason, claim 20 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 21

Claim 21 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

wherein, when the system processes data in the first dataset, the system detects a duplicated inheritance of a data item and avoids processing the data item multiple times.

Because Chu does not include multi-level or whole dataset inheritance, it has no occasion to detect duplicated inheritance (e.g., via alternate paths or whole datasets) or to avoid processing a data element multiple times.

For this additional reason, claim 21 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 22

Claim 22 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17, from which it depends.

Claim 24

Claim 24 adds to claim 23 the following limitation:

receiving at the first alter-ego dataset a first user change to the alter-ego copy of the first data item;

performing a second synchronization between the first dataset and the first alter-ego dataset, including receiving at the first dataset the first user change to the first data item;

making a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset; and

entering the first user change into the local copy of the first data item at the first dataset.

This inheritance-aware embodiment makes a local copy of an inherited first data item when synchronization reveals that an alter-ego copy of the inherited first data item has been annotated (remembering that the user cannot actually change the source copy of the inherited first data item.) In Chu, the DataGuide metadata repository 600 maintains metadata. There is no indication that a local copy of data will be made when a user has annotated an alter-ego copy.

For this additional reason, claim 24 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 25

Claim 25 adds to claim 24 the following limitation:

wherein the step of making the local copy of the first data item in the first

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dataset occurs before the first synchronization between the first dataset and the first alter-ego dataset.

Chu does not include this detail of local copy generation made when a user has annotated an alter-ego copy.

For this additional reason, claim 25 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 26

Claim 26 adds to claim 23 the following limitations:

receiving at the first alter-ego dataset a second user change to the alter-ego copy of the first data item;

beginning a third synchronization between the first dataset and the first alter-ego dataset;

receiving at the first dataset the second user change to the first data item;

detecting a third change to the first data item in the first ancestor dataset;

making a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset;

performing a conflict resolution between the second user change to the first data item and the third change to the first data item; and

completing the third synchronization by entering the second user change into the local copy of the first data item, entering the third change into the local copy of the first data item, and propagating the third change to the first alter-ego dataset, as appropriate, based on the conflict resolution.

None of these details of alter-ego dataset synchronization appear in Chu, because Chu includes only source datasets and not any alter-ego dataset.

For this additional reason, claim 26 should be allowable over Chu.

Claim 27

Claim 27 adds to claim 23 many details of local copy generation and alter-ego dataset synchronization that are not found in Chu. For this additional reason, claim 27 should be allowable over Chu.

Claims 28 and 29

Claims 28 and 29 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 23, from which they depend.

Application No.: 09/715,981**Atty Docket: PUMA 1019-1****Rejection's Under 35 USC § 102(e) as Anticipated by Bodnar**

Claims 1-29 are also rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Bodnar et al. (USP 6,295,541). From the list of Bodnar inventors, it is apparent that Bodnar includes part of inventor LaRue's prior work. Applicant believes that Bodnar will not be available as a 103(a) reference, pursuant to 103(c).

One way of looking at Bodnar, for which a continuation is pending, is would the Examiner consider claims 1-29 to be fully supported if they were added by amendment to Bodnar? If the Examiner says "yes", then applicant would be encouraged to add the claims to a Bodnar continuation.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the passages of Bodnar that the Examiner cites, particularly col. 7, line 13-67 (multiple dataset synchronization with mapping); col. 17, line 27 to col. 18, line 39 (user selection of dataset to "focus" on and options); col. 19, line 40 to col. 20, line 37 (mapping of fields in different datasets); col. 22, line 33 to col. 23, line 26 (binary synchronizations of multiple datasets); col. 41, line 11 to col. 42, line 28 (working buffer "action list" or queue); col. 42, line 29 to col. 44, line 44 (synchronization details for updates and adds); col. 45, line 7 to col. 46, line 58 (generating entries in "action list" queue); col. 48, lines 6-14 (manual resolution of conflicting updates). Neither a word search for "inherit" or a review of the passages reveals any discussion in Bodnar of "inheritance." We think that the description of Bodnar's working buffer "action list" or queue may be getting confused with inheritance.

Claim 1

Applicant has amended claim 1 as follows:

placing a first pointer in the first dataset, pointing to a first record in the second dataset that contains the inherited first data item; and

when processing data in the first dataset, using the first pointer to locate the inherited first record in the second dataset, and including the inherited first data item from the second dataset in the processing of data in the first dataset;

wherein the user cannot modify the second dataset and the first dataset is a personal dataset in which the user can annotate the inherited first data item.

We do not find that Bodnar inherits individual data items, as opposed to synchronizing whole datasets. Public and personal datasets are not distinguished. Bodnar does not meet the wherein limitation. For these reasons, claim 1 should be allowable over

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Bodnar.

Claim 14

Claim 14 includes the following limitation:

data that is inherited on a record level from the second dataset that is further inherited on a record level from a third dataset, data that is inherited on a dataset level from the third dataset, and data that is inherited from the second dataset and that is modified locally, ...

This portion of the preamble gives meaning to processing of data inherited from the second and third datasets, as data is inherited from the third dataset via two routes.

Bodnar does not describe any data inherited from a second dataset that is in turn inherited from a third dataset. Bodnar also does not describe an ordering to processing of data in the third dataset, depending on how it is inherited into the first dataset. Bodnar's FIG. 4A illustrates a single level of synchronization between programs 455-462 that maintain their own datasets. There is no illustration or discussion of multi-level data inheritance.

For these reasons, claim 14 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 17

Claim 17 includes the following limitations to a system claim:

a second pointer in the first dataset, the second pointer pointing to a third pointer in a third dataset, the third pointer pointing to a second data item in a fourth dataset to inherit the second data item from the third dataset into the first dataset on a record level, the second data item further being inherited from the fourth dataset into the third dataset on a record level; and

a fourth pointer in the first dataset, the fourth pointer pointing to a fifth dataset to inherit the fifth dataset into the first dataset on a dataset level, ...

The first dataset to third dataset to fourth dataset sequence presents multi-level data inheritance, which Bodnar does not describe, for the reasons explained above.

Inheritance of whole datasets, as opposed to record level synchronization, has no analogue in Bodnar. Bodnar consistently treats synchronizes individual records, without using a a pointer to a whole dataset.

For these reasons, claim 17 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 23

Claim 23 includes the following limitation:

performing a first synchronization of at least a portion of the first dataset with

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at least a portion of a first alter-ego dataset, including sending a copy of the first data item to the first alter-ego dataset for inclusion in the first alter-ego dataset as a first alter-ego copy of the first data item;

wherein the user cannot modify the first ancestor dataset and the first dataset is a personal dataset in which the user can annotate the inherited first ancestor data item.

Applicant does not understand where the Examiner finds the concept of inheritance in Bodnar. The wherein clause clarifies the meaning of inheriting from an ancestor dataset, which warrants further consideration.

For these reasons, claim 23 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 2

Claim 2 should be allowable over Bodnar for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 3

Claim 3 adds to claim 1 the following limitation:

receiving a third user input, the third user input indicating changes to be made to the first data item;

creating a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset; and

applying the user changes to the local copy of the first data item.

An inheritance-aware embodiment can choose to make a local copy of an inherited first data item when the user wants to annotate it (remembering that the user cannot actually change the source copy of the inherited first data item.) The synchronizer 470 merges values across datasets, always creating local copies of data. There is no indication that a local copy of data will be made when a user wants to annotate it.

For this additional reason, claim 3 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 4

Claim 4 adds to claims 1 and 3 retaining the pointer even when a local copy of data is made to be annotated. There is no suggestion of this method in Bodnar.

For this additional reason, claim 4 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 5

Claim 5 adds to claims 1 and 3 details of processing a local copy, which are not found in Bodnar. For this additional reason, claim 5 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Application No.: 09/715,981**Atty Docket: PUMA 1019-1****Claim 6**

Claim 6 adds to claim 1 the following limitation:

receiving a fourth user input, the fourth user input selecting a third dataset and indicating that the entire third dataset is to be inherited into the first dataset;

placing a second pointer in the first dataset, pointing to the third dataset; and

when processing data in the first dataset, using the second pointer to locate the third dataset ...

Again, inheritance of whole datasets, as opposed to record level synchronization across whole datasets, has no analogue in Bodnar. Bodnar consistently synchronizes data at the record level, keeping a local copy of selected data collections in each of the synchronized datasets, rather than a pointer to a whole dataset.

For this additional reason, claim 6 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 7

Claim 7 adds to claim 1 a multi-level inheritance limitation, similar to claim 14. It should be allowable over Bodnar for the additional reasons that claim 14 should be allowable.

Claim 8

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and adds to claim 1 the combination of whole dataset and multi-level inheritance. For the additional reasons given in discussion of claim 17, claim 8 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claims 9 -12

Claims 9 - 12 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they depend.

Claim 15

Claim 15 adds to claim 14 the limitation:

wherein the data in the first dataset further includes data that is inherited from the third dataset and that is modified locally, and the step of processing the data in the first dataset that are inherited from the third dataset excludes data for which a local copy has already been processed.

Bodnar synchronizes source datasets 455-462 and does not indicate any circumstances under which local modification of data would exclude updating from a source dataset.

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For this additional reason, claim 15 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 16

Claim 16 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14, from which it depends.

Claim 18

Claim 18 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

wherein the second dataset and the third dataset are the same dataset.

Bodnar does not include this variation on multi-level inheritance. For this additional reason, claim 18 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 19

Claim 19 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

wherein the second dataset and the fifth dataset are the same dataset

Bodnar does not include this variation on whole dataset inheritance. For this additional reason, claim 19 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 20

Claim 20 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

if a user of the first dataset attempts to modify the first data item, the system creates a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset and modifies the local copy, instead of the first data item in the second dataset.

This inheritance-aware embodiment makes a local copy of an inherited first data item when the user wants to annotate it (remembering that the user cannot actually change the source copy of the inherited first data item.) In Bodnar, the synchronization engine 470 makes local copies in all of the synchronized datasets 455-462. There is no indication that a local copy of data will be made when a user wants to annotate it.

For this additional reason, claim 20 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 21

Claim 21 adds to claim 17 the following limitation:

wherein, when the system processes data in the first dataset, the system detects a duplicated inheritance of a data item and avoids processing the data item multiple times.

Because Bodnar does not include multi-level or whole dataset inheritance, it has no occasion to detect duplicated inheritance (e.g., via alternate paths or whole datasets) or

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to avoid processing a data element multiple times.

For this additional reason, claim 21 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 22

Claim 22 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17, from which it depends.

Claim 24

Claim 24 adds to claim 23 the following limitation:

receiving at the first alter-ego dataset a first user change to the alter-ego copy of the first data item;

performing a second synchronization between the first dataset and the first alter-ego dataset, including receiving at the first dataset the first user change to the first data item;

making a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset; and

entering the first user change into the local copy of the first data item at the first dataset.

This inheritance-aware embodiment makes a local copy of an inherited first data item when synchronization reveals that an alter-ego copy of the inherited first data item has been annotated (remembering that the user cannot actually change the source copy of the inherited first data item.) In Bodnar, the synchronization engine 470 makes local copies in all of the synchronized datasets 455-462. There is no indication that a local copy of data will be made when a user has annotated an alter-ego copy.

For this additional reason, claim 24 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 25

Claim 25 adds to claim 24 the following limitation:

wherein the step of making the local copy of the first data item in the first dataset occurs before the first synchronization between the first dataset and the first alter-ego dataset.

Bodnar does not include this detail of local copy generation made when a user has annotated an alter-ego copy.

For this additional reason, claim 25 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 26

Claim 26 adds to claim 23 the following limitations:

receiving at the first alter-ego dataset a second user change to the alter-ego

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copy of the first data item;

beginning a third synchronization between the first dataset and the first alter-ego dataset;

receiving at the first dataset the second user change to the first data item;

detecting a third change to the first data item in the first ancestor dataset;

making a local copy of the first data item in the first dataset;

performing a conflict resolution between the second user change to the first data item and the third change to the first data item; and

completing the third synchronization by entering the second user change into the local copy of the first data item, entering the third change into the local copy of the first data item, and propagating the third change to the first alter-ego dataset, as appropriate, based on the conflict resolution.

These details of alter-ego dataset synchronization do not appear in Bodnar. For this additional reason, claim 26 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claim 27

Claim 27 adds to claim 23 many details of local copy generation and alter-ego dataset synchronization that are not found in Bodnar. For this additional reason, claim 27 should be allowable over Bodnar.

Claims 28 and 29

Claims 28 and 29 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 23, from which they depend.

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CONCLUSION

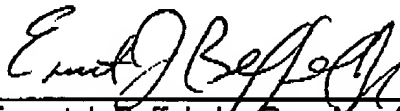
Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and thereby solicit acceptance of the claims, in light of these amendments.

Productive as the first interview was, an additional interview is invited. The undersigned can ordinarily be reached at his office at (650) 712-0340 from 8:30 to 5:30 PST, M-F and can be reached at his cell phone (415) 902-6112 most other times.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 28 January 2005

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